

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. All of the claims having been rejected, claims 1 and 12 have been amended.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-12, 14, 15, and 19-22 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,789,962 (Berry et al.).

Of the claims mentioned, claims 1 and 12 are independent claims. For that reason, these claims will be considered in the greatest detail.

Considering claim 1, the Examiner takes the position that all of the elements recited in claim 1 are found in the Berry patent.

Claim 1 has been amended to further distinctly claim and point out that which the applicants regard as their invention. In particular, the claim has been amended to recite that the first display means has a predetermined first area dedicated to displaying a main window of an application program. Likewise, the second display means is now defined as having a predetermined second display area dedicated to displaying auxiliary information related to the application program. The claim also points out that the main window is routed exclusively to the first display area and the auxiliary information is routed exclusively to the second display area so that the display of the auxiliary information in the second display area never overlaps the display of the main window in the first display area.

This is to be contrasted against the Berry et al. patent which shows a method of placing help information on a portion of a screen. Although the objective of Berry is to place the information so that it does not overlap an underlying program window, Figures 2 through 4 illustrate that Berry has not arrived at a solution which allow the auxiliary information to be

displayed at all times so that it never overlaps an underlying main window of an application program which is provided for in claim 1. In contrast, Figure 3 of Berry does show that, when the program window 16 is small enough, an auxiliary window 17 can be displayed on screen 15 so that the auxiliary window 17 does not overlap the program window 16. However, if the program window 16 is made too large such as shown in Figure 2 and Figure 4, then the auxiliary window 17 must overlap a portion of the underlying main window 11 in Figure 2 and 18 in Figure 4.

In the present invention, through a number of different embodiments, the problem of overlapping found in Berry is solved. In one embodiment of the claimed invention, a single screen is broken up into two dedicated areas, one for only receiving the main window and the other for only receiving the auxiliary information. In a second embodiment of the claimed invention, this problem is solved through the provision of two separate monitors.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 may no longer be rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Berry et al. Further, in light of the amendments, and from an evaluation of the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is neither anticipated nor made obvious by any of the references of record taken alone or in combination.

Claims 2 through 11 can trace their dependence to claim 1 and as such incorporate the limitations of that claim. Thus, for at least the reasons previously expressed with regard to claim 1, claims 2 through 11 are in condition for allowance and are neither anticipated nor made obvious by any of the references of record taken alone or in combination.

Claims 2, 5-7, 13, and 16-18 have been rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Berry et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,104,359 (Endres et al.). Endres is cited merely for its showing of the use of a multi-monitor support feature, but does not have any of the teachings with regard to ensuring the complete separation and non-overlap of the main window of an application program by the auxiliary information.

Claim 12 is a method claim relating to displaying auxiliary information to prevent overlap of display of a main window of an application program. The claim has been rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Berry et al. In light of this rejection, the claim has been amended in the following way. The routing and displaying steps have been amended to recite that the main window of the application program is routed and displayed on a first dedicated display area that cannot display the auxiliary information and then the auxiliary information is separately routed to a second dedicated display area that cannot display the main window so that the display of the auxiliary information never overlaps the display of the main window.

In light of these amendments, the arguments previously presented with regard to the implacability of the Berry et al. and the Endres et al. references in the context of claim 1 likewise apply to claim 12.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 is allowable and is neither anticipated nor made obvious by any of the references of record taken alone or in combination.

Claims 13-22 can trace their dependency to claim 12 and as such incorporate the limitations of that claim. For at least these reasons, claims 13-22 are likewise in condition for allowance and are neither anticipated nor made obvious by any of the references of record taken alone or in combination.

The prior art made of record has been noted and it is further reemphasized that none of these references taken alone or in combination with the applied references teach or render obvious the invention as now provided for in the amended claims.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions after reviewing this amendment, he cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney so that this case may receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen S. Melser", is written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE:

Please cancel the present title "INDEPENDENT STATUS AND HELP DISPLAY" and insert the following title:

--METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DISPLAYING NON-OVERLAPPING PROGRAM AND AUXILIARY WINDOWS--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A computer system comprising:

first display means having a predetermined first display area dedicated to [for] displaying a main window of an application program;

second display means having a predetermined second display area dedicated to [for] displaying auxiliary information related to the application program; and

means, responsive to the application program, for separately routing the main window exclusively to the first display [means] area and the auxiliary information exclusively to the second display[means] area so that display of the auxiliary information [does not overlap] never overlaps display of the main window.

12. (Amended) A method for displaying auxiliary information to prevent overlap with display of a main window of an application program, the method comprising the steps of:

routing and displaying the main window of the application program to a first dedicated display [means] area that cannot display the auxiliary information; and

separately routing the auxiliary information to a second dedicated display [means] area that cannot display the main window, so that display of the auxiliary information [does not overlap] never overlaps display of the main window.